

eight cents will go into our cash reserve fund. It will be held there until ultimately appropriated to the general fund by the Appropriations Committee and this Legislature. This is simply a protective device to make certain that we have that cigarette tax money available assuming that the federal tax goes off, assuming that it goes off. It also lowers the dealers stamping discount from five cents to four cents or five percent to four percent of the tax for that additional taxed amount only because they don't need as much discount and in fact the dealers basically understand that. That is essentially the nature of the bill, this was the bill that came out of the Revenue Committee that we kind of played with. As my aide told me, this was one bill that got snake bit along the way, and I think that is right. It needs pass. I ask you to amend the amendment into 653A and advance it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you Mr. President. I recognize Speaker Nichol's wanting to get as many things accomplished today as possible. On the other hand, this is the exact time, my first year here, John DeCamp told me, in politics timing is everything. When you get down to the wire and people get in a hurry you can jam things through. Senator Johnson, I'm only going to ask you one question one more time, because I think I asked you once. Did I not previously ask you if it was definite by Congress, by legislation that the eight cent tax would come off?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I answered it, yes, it was definite as of June 3rd. Congress has 75 days between now and October 1st and they could repeal their definite but it is definite as of June 3rd. It is coming off.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So it is not definite then if they can still repeal it the same as we can repeal things.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, even our budget today is not definite. I suppose it could always be changed. But the truth of the matter is Congress has repealed the cigarette tax effective October 1, 1985. They have repealed it period. It's done. It is gone.

SENATOR HIGGINS: But you didn't tell me all of that the first time I asked the question. Now you are saying and you